

Zahid Predicts Rise in Popular Votes for Sarawak BN in 11th State Election

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LIMBANG, March 20 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi expects the popular votes for Sarawak Barisan Nasional (BN) in the upcoming 11th state election to increase, in tandem with the rising popularity of Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem.

He said based on a study conducted by Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Adenan's popularity reached almost 84 per cent in January, 2016 compared with 74 per cent in June, 2015.

"I am very confident that with the excellent record of the BN government, the number of votes (for BN) will increase," he said at a leader-meet-people event at Rumah Intai Menuang, here, today.

Ahmad Zahid said although the popular votes for BN dropped by 8.3 per cent from 71.2 per cent in the Sarawak state election in 2001 to 62.9 per cent in 2006, and down by 7.5 per cent to 55.4 per cent in 2011, the number was expected to go up to 60 per cent this time.

He urged the people of Sarawak not to fall for the instigation of outsiders, especially those who wanted them to hate the chief minister and the Sarawak state government.

He said the people of Sarawak understood better the dominant issues in the state, including the devolution of power and native customary rights land, than believing the allegations of outsiders who did not understand local issues.

Ahmad Zahid assured that serious attention would be given to issues that had been raised by the chief minister and the state's other elected representatives.

On the problem of residents not having personal identification documents, he said he would try to solve it by bringing the National Registration Department's mobile service to Limbang.

Also present at today's event at the longhouse were state Public Utilities Minister Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Limbang MP Hasbi Habibollah and Batu Danau assemblyman Paulus Palu Gumbang.

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